



Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 29, 2005

Ms. Beatrice L. Kephart
Chief, Restoration Program
30th CES/CEVR
806 13th Street, Suite 116
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California 93437-5242

APPROVAL OF FINAL REMOVAL ACTION WORK PLAN (RAW) FOR INTERIM REMOVAL ACTION AT INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM (IRP) SITE 32 CLUSTER, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (VAFB), CALIFORNIA

Dear Ms. Kephart:

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have reviewed the above referenced RAW for an interim removal action at IRP Site 32 Cluster dated April 2005, and prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. on behalf of VAFB. The final RAW evaluates the removal alternatives and documents the proposed selected action to address cleanup of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater at Missile Silo 576-D. The RAW recommends installation of a phytoremediation barrier consisting up to 360 arroyo willow trees in up to three rows spaced 15 feet apart to intercept the shallow groundwater plume migrating towards the spring at this site. A supplemental groundwater investigation consisting of additional groundwater monitoring wells and Hydropunch sampling will be conducted to further delineate the extent of the Site 32 VOC plume and to refine the locations of the phytoremediation barrier.

The RAW documents a proposed treatability study at IRP Site 35 (Missile Silo 576-G) to evaluate the effectiveness of an in-situ reactive zone technology using emulsified soybean oil to promote reductive dechlorination of VOCs in groundwater. The treatability study will be conducted for approximately 18 months and the location of 20 proposed injection wells and ten new monitoring wells will be finalized following the completion of a supplemental groundwater investigation using Hydropunch technology. The Air Force will prepare and submit four quarterly technical memoranda containing all data collected during the interim removal action and treatability study.


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A Fact Sheet, providing key information from the draft RAW and notice of a public review period, was mailed on March 15, 2005. A public notice announcing the comment period was also published in the Lompoc Record Newspaper on March 20, 2005. The 30-day comment period started on March 21, 2005 and ended on April 20, 2005. No comments were received during the public comment period and the draft final RAW becomes the final approved document.

DTSC and RWQCB are satisfied that its comments raised in the December 23, 2004 and December 6, 2004 letters on the draft document have been adequately addressed and hereby approves the final RAW.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the investigation and cleanup of the sites at Vandenberg Air Force Base. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Tayseer Mahmoud of DTSC at (714) 484-5419 or Ms. Linda Stone of RWQCB at (805) 542-4695.

Sincerely,



John E. Scandura, Chief
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Operations Branch

cc: Ms. Sharon Stone
HQ AFSPC/CEVR
1520 East Willamette Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909-4554

Ms. Kathleen Gerber
30th CES/CEVR
806 13th Street, Suite 116
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California 93437-5242

Ms. Amena Atta
30th CES/CEVR
806 13th Street, Suite 116
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California 93437-5242

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cc: Mr. David Springer
Tetra Tech, Inc.
4213 State Street, Suite 100
Santa Barbara, California 93110-3100

Ms. Linda Stone/Mr. William Meece
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast, Region 3
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Mr. Emad Yemut/Mr. Quang Than
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Military Facilities
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630